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Extension Service Promotes

Rural Home Projects

ACTING as the link between rural families and Iowa State, the county extension home economist takes to the county the research and classroom teaching emphasized by the State College. A variety of activities, including the presentation of the home economics project to the girls' 4-H clubs and conducting adult women's family living programs makes it necessary for her to know the most recent developments in home economics, sociology and economics.

Consumer education will be an important part of the extension home economist's job in the post-war era. She will tell the people of her county about the latest developments in household equipment, furnishings, clothing and foods and nutrition, emphasizing the values which should be considered by a wise consumer.

As a leader of worthwhile discussions concerning family relationships, child development, home management, health, recreation and youth problems, the extension worker will find her post-war calendar as full as it is today. For example, information about freezing foods probably will be combined with canning instruction, and the planning of new homes and remodeling of old ones will be emphasized.

Within the county the extension home economist is the organizer and has the help of community leaders. Committees chosen from the members of the community help plan and conduct the year's program. The extension home economist conducts demonstration and discussion classes at which the attendance is voluntary.

Sincere interest in people and their work and problems is essential for the home economist in extension work. Her main work is with rural people so her interest must be in the rural family. The ability to organize and a knowledge of agriculture and home-making are other requisites.

County extension home economists must have a degree in home economics from a recognized college. Vocational education majors have the advantage of training in every phase of home economics and in education methods.

Additional study and experience lead to advanced positions. To be a home economics specialist on the central staff, it is desirable to have a master's degree in a specialized phase of home economics and county experience. One of the duties of these specialists is to keep the county home economics agents informed about up-to-date subject matter and methods.

District home economics supervisors represent the state office in a particular geographic area. Their duties include assistance in the induction and in service training of county personnel and helping in any phase of the program in the county. Because they must have diversified knowledge, their home economics degrees may be followed by a master's degree in education, sociology or economics.

State leaders in girls' 4-H club work help to vision a program which will meet the needs of rural youth. They work with youth throughout the state, planning programs for the year, aiding the organization of new clubs and finding club leaders. In addition, they prepare helpful suggestions for county-wide events, including 4-H rallies and achievement days. They edit literature for the county club and conduct state-wide conventions at the State College and the state fair. A master's degree in home economics or a related field, exceptional organization abilities, experience and interest in youth are necessary qualifications.

Home economics journalists in the state office use the press and radio to interpret to the county and the state the new developments in extension work. They coordinate the teaching of the extension home economist with daily and weekly newspaper publicity. They also edit the specialized bulletins and write radio scripts for the college radio station and other stations.

Emergency wartime positions created in the Extension Service include war food assistantships. For these positions, college juniors or seniors or home economics teachers who would like summer work help with the production and preservation of food. This plan aids the promotion of the health program throughout the rural communities of the state.



Mrs. Helen Scott Sage, '40, Pocahontas County Extension Home Economist, carries bulletins to help train adult leaders